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COUNTY OF WEST LoTHIAN.

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# REPORT

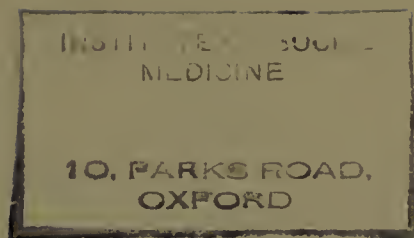
BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1927.







COUNTY OF WEST LoTHIAN.

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# REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1927.



**To the County Council and District Committees  
of the County of West Lothian.**

GENTLEMEN,

I submit to you a report on the Health of the County during the Year 1927. The report is made in the manner adopted by the late Dr. Robb and is compiled from his notes and figures.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE Y. RICHARDSON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

COUNTY ROOMS,  
EDINBURGH, *29th November, 1928.*

# COUNTY OF WEST LoTHIAN.

## REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1927.

### COUNTY.

#### Vital Statistics.

Population—Census 1921	52,329
Population—Estimated 1927	53,814
Number of Births (Males, 578 ; Females, 527)	1,105
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	20·5
Number of Deaths (Males, 313 ; Females, 247)	560
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	10·4
Number of Deaths under one year	93
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	84
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	34
“ „ Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17
“ „ Diphtheria	8
“ „ Measles	4
“ „ Whooping Cough	5
“ „ Scarlet Fever	3
“ „ Influenza	18
“ „ Encephalitis Lethargica	2

## Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified and the number removed to hospital from the two County Districts during the year :—

	Notified.	Removed to Hospital.
Enteric Fever . . .	2	1
Scarlet Fever . . .	203	172
Diphtheria . . .	96	94
Erysipelas . . .	33	2
Puerperal Fever . . .	5	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis . . .	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . . .	2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica . . .	1	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia . . .	18	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia . . .	16	0
Infantile Paralysis . . .	2	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . .	50	26
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . .	91	57

## Tuberculosis.

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis in the County (including Burghs) is now undertaken by the County Council.

The population of the area included in the Scheme is 84,765.

During 1927 the number of patients reported to us was 213, 73 being cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 140 cases of other forms of tuberculosis, that is, of glands, spine, joints, bones, skin, etc.

At East Fortune Sanatorium, which was established for the needs of the South Eastern Counties, the number of beds allocated to West Lothian is 56.

A number of patients received treatment, mainly surgical, in other institutions such as the Royal Infirmary and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

During the year 42 persons suffering from TUBERCULOSIS OF THE LUNGS—22 men, 13 women, and 7 children—received treatment at East Fortune Sanatorium.

Of the cases of NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS, 22—6 men, 2 women, 14 children—were treated in East Fortune Sanatorium.

### Domiciliary Treatment.

In the supervision of patients in their own homes no responsibility for the actual treatment rests with the Local Authority. This is provided by the Medical Practitioners. Assistance is given, however, in the way of extra nourishment (chiefly eggs, milk and butter), special medicines, splints and other apparatus to patients who are unable to provide these themselves.

Several patients suffering from LUPUS or other forms of tuberculosis of the skin were granted their travelling expenses to enable them to attend regularly for "Light Treatment" at the skin department of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

### Venereal Diseases.

There has been no addition to, or alteration of, the Scheme for the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases which applies to the whole County including Burghs. During the year 1927 the number of new cases attending the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, as out-door patients was 224—165 men and 59 women and children. This is an increase of 41 patients as compared with the preceding year. The total attendances numbered 13,280 as compared with 13,540 last year.

There were 50 patients—24 men and 26 women and children—who received in-door treatment totalling 2,036 days, as compared with 21 patients and a total of 976 days in the preceding year.

At the end of the year 200 patients from the County were still under treatment.

## BATHGATE DISTRICT.

### Vital Statistics.

Population—Census 1921 . . . . .	36,697
Population—Estimated 1927 . . . . .	38,423
Number of Births (Males, 414 ; Females, 394) . . . . .	808
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population . . . . .	21
Number of Deaths (Males, 227 ; Females, 170) . . . . .	397
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population . . . . .	10·3
Number of Deaths under one year . . . . .	70
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births . . . . .	87
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . . . .	25
„ „ Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . . . .	12
„ „ Whooping Cough . . . . .	5
„ „ Diphtheria . . . . .	7
„ „ Scarlet Fever . . . . .	3
„ „ Measles . . . . .	4
„ „ Influenza . . . . .	9
„ „ Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	0
„ „ Malignant Tumours . . . . .	50
„ „ Apoplexy . . . . .	27
„ „ Heart Disease . . . . .	33
„ „ Bronchitis . . . . .	27
„ „ Pneumonia . . . . .	28
„ „ Diarrhœa . . . . .	7
„ „ Diseases of Early Infancy . . . . .	35
„ „ Violence . . . . .	18
„ „ All other Causes . . . . .	107

#### NUMBER OF DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

Under 1 year . . . . .	70	25 to 45 years . . . . .	38
1 to 5 years . . . . .	33	45 to 65 years . . . . .	106
5 to 15 years . . . . .	15	65 to 75 years . . . . .	62
15 to 25 years . . . . .	23	75 and upwards . . . . .	50



## Infectious Diseases.

SCARLET FEVER—Cases notified, 150 ; removed to hospital, 123 ; deaths, 3.

DIPHTHERIA—Cases notified, 73 ; removed to hospital, 71 ; deaths, 7.

There were two cases of ENTERIC FEVER and three cases of PUERPERAL FEVER.

OPATHALMIA NEONATORUM—Two cases were reported. Recovery took place without any loss of vision.

ERYSIPELAS—23 cases, of which 2 were removed to hospital.

There were also notified 10 cases of ACUTE PRIMARY PNEUMONIA ; 10 of INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA ; 2 cases of INFANTILE PARALYSIS ; and 64 cases of CHICKENPOX.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—Of the 37 cases reported 20 received treatment in East Fortune Sanatorium.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—There were 74 cases notified, and of these 49 received institutional treatment.

DIABETES : SUPPLY OF INSULIN—The Public Health (Scotland) Amendment Act, 1925, gives power to a Local Authority to make such arrangements as they may think fit for providing medicine and treatment to persons who are suffering from Diabetes and who require assistance in obtaining such medicines and treatment.

A supply of Insulin was granted to one patient during the year.

## Hospitals.

TIPPETHILL HOSPITAL—During the year there were admitted from the District 163 cases of Scarlet Fever, 128 of Diphtheria, 4, of Erysipelas, 2 of Enteric Fever, and 1 of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. There were 8 deaths from Diphtheria, 3 from Scarlet Fever 1 from Erysipelas, and 1 from Enteric Fever.

BROXBURN HOSPITAL—There were admitted 11 cases of Scarlet Fever. No deaths occurred.

## Maternity Service & Child Welfare.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths under one year . . . .	70
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births . . . .	87

### CAUSES OF DEATH CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months
Measles . . . .	0	0	0	0	2
Scarlet Fever . . . .	0	0	0	0	1
Whooping Cough . . . .	0	0	1	0	1
Tuberculous Disease . . . .	0	0	0	1	4
Meningitis (Not Tuberculous) . . . .	0	0	0	0	1
Convulsions . . . .	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia . . . .	0	1	3	0	3
Bronchitis . . . .	0	1	0	1	5
Other Digestive Diseases . . . .	1	0	0	2	2
Congenital Malformation . . . .	3	0	3	0	0
Congenital Heart . . . .	0	0	1	0	0
Premature Birth . . . .	10	1	0	0	0
Atrophy, Debility, etc. . . .	6	4	5	2	0
Injury at Birth . . . .	1	0	0	0	0
All other Causes . . . .	0	0	1	1	0
Total	21	7	14	7	20

This table gives a total of 68 deaths. The cause of the remaining two deaths cannot be traced.

### BIRTHS.

Number of Births (Males, 414 ; Females, 394) . . . .	808
Illegitimate Births (Males, 22 ; Females, 20) . . . .	42
Number notified . . . . .	624
Number of Births attended by Midwives . . . .	282
Number of Still Births . . . . .	9

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis. There were 5 deaths registered as being due to causes connected with Pregnancy.

## MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT.

Number of Midwives practising in the District . . . . .	35
Number of Births Registered . . . . .	774
Number of Births attended by Midwives . . . . .	282
Number of Deaths of Infants (within 10 days of birth) . . . . .	22
Number of Deaths of Infants (within 10 days of birth) in Midwives' Practices . . . . .	4
Number of Still Births . . . . .	9
Number of Still Births in Midwives' Practices . . . . .	1
Number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum . . . . .	2
Number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in Midwives' Practices . . . . .	0
Number of cases of Puerperal Sepsis . . . . .	3
Number of cases of Puerperal Sepsis in Midwives' Practices . . . . .	2
Number of cases of Emergency where Medical Assistance was sent for by Midwives . . . . .	25

There are no Child Welfare Consultations or Treatment Centres in the District.

**Food and Milk.**

The Medical Officer recommended no cases for a supply of milk or other food.

**Measles.**

There were 5 deaths of children under five years of age. No cases were treated in hospital.

**Whooping Cough.**

There were 5 deaths of children under five years of age. No cases were treated in hospital.

**Housing.**

During the past year 43 houses were closed as unfit for human habitation,

Improvements on houses in the District continue to be carried out.

Of the 100 new houses occupied during the year under the District Committee's Housing Scheme, 40 were of three apartments and 60 were of two apartments.

### **Slaughterhouses.**

The licensed slaughterhouses in the District, 7 in number, were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

### **Factories and Workshops.**

There are 36 factories and 93 workshops in the District. In 10 instances minor defects were discovered and remedied. 7 of these referred to want of cleanliness and 3 to other nuisances.

### **River Pollution.**

Observation has been kept on the various sources of pollution affecting the streams within the District.

## LINLITHGOW DISTRICT.

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### Vital Statistics.

Population—Census 1921 . . . . .	15,632
Population—Estimated 1927 . . . . .	15,391
Number of Births (Males, 164 ; Females, 133) . . . . .	297
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population . . . . .	19'3
Number of Deaths (Males, 86 ; Females, 77) . . . . .	163
Death rate per 1,000 of the population . . . . .	10'6
Number of Deaths under one year . . . . .	23
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births . . . . .	77
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . . . .	9
„ „ Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . . . .	5
„ „ Measles . . . . .	0
„ „ Whooping Cough . . . . .	0
„ „ Scarlet Fever . . . . .	0
„ „ Diphtheria . . . . .	1
„ „ Enteric Fever . . . . .	0
„ „ Influenza . . . . .	9
„ „ Malignant Tumours . . . . .	19
„ „ Apoplexy . . . . .	18
„ „ Heart Disease . . . . .	11
„ „ Bronchitis . . . . .	10
„ „ Pneumonia . . . . .	9
„ „ Diseases of Early Infancy . . . . .	12
„ „ Violence . . . . .	12
„ „ All other Causes . . . . .	48

#### NUMBER OF DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

Under 1 year . . . . .	23	25 to 45 years . . . . .	24
1 to 5 years . . . . .	10	45 to 65 years . . . . .	29
5 to 15 years . . . . .	9	65 to 75 years . . . . .	32
15 to 25 years . . . . .	9	75 and upwards . . . . .	27

### Infectious Diseases.

There is nothing of importance to report regarding the prevalence of infectious disease.

SCARLET FEVER—53 cases were notified and 49 were removed to hospital.

DIPHTHERIA—23 cases were notified and all were removed to hospital.

ERYSIPELAS—10 cases.

PUERPERAL FEVER—2 cases. 1 removed to hospital.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—No cases.

CHICKENPOX—12 cases.

8 cases of ACUTE PRIMARY PNEUMONIA and 6 cases of ACUTE INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA were notified.

1 case of ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA was notified.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—13 cases were reported and of these 6 were treated in East Fortune Sanatorium.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—There were 17 cases notified and of these 8 were treated in East Fortune Sanatorium.

LINLITHGOW HOSPITAL—From the District there were admitted 88 cases of Scarlet Fever, 45 of Diphtheria, 1 of Erysipelas, and 1 of Pneumonia. There were 2 deaths, 1 from Diphtheria and 1 from Pneumonia.

## Maternity Service & Child Welfare.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths under one year	.	.	.	23
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	.	.	.	77

### CAUSES OF DEATH CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months
Hydrocephalus . . .	0	0	0	1	0
Convulsions . . .	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia . . .	0	0	1	4	0
Bronchitis . . .	0	0	1	0	0
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	0	1	0	0	0
Congenital Malformation	0	0	0	0	1
Congenital Heart . .	0	0	0	1	0
Premature Birth . .	3	0	0	0	0
Atrophy, Debility, etc. .	3	0	0	3	0
Injury at Birth . .	1	0	0	0	0
All other Causes . .	0	0	1	0	1
Total	7	1	3	9	3

## BIRTHS.

Number of Births (Males, 164 ; Females, 133)	297
Illegitimate Births (Males, 9 ; Females, 8)	17
Number of Births Notified	211
Number of Births attended by Midwives	55
Number of Still Births	6

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were two deaths from Puerperal Sepsis.

There were two deaths due to other diseases connected with Pregnancy.

## MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT.

Number of Midwives practising in the District	7
Number of Births registered	262
Number of Births attended by Midwives	55
Number of deaths of infants (within 10 days of birth)	7
Number of deaths of infants (within 10 days of birth) in Midwives' practices	0
Number of Still Births	6
Number of Still Births in Midwives' practises	2
Number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0
Number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in Midwives' practices	0
Number of cases of Puerperal Sepsis	2
Number of cases of Puerperal Sepsis in Midwives' practices	0
Number of cases of emergency where Medical Assistance was sent for by Midwives	18

There were no deaths from MEASLES or WHOOPING COUGH among children under five years of age.

## Food and Milk.

The Medical Officer recommended no cases for a supply of milk or other food.

## Housing.

Housing inspections numbered 446.

Eight houses were closed as uninhabitable by order of the Local Authority.

Repairs and improvements were carried out in 51 houses.

Water was introduced into 14, and w.cs. provided for 42 houses.

### **Slaughterhouses.**

There are now only two private slaughterhouses. These were regularly inspected and found being kept in good condition.

### **Factory and Workshops Act.**

There were 30 workshops and 18 workplaces on the register. These were regularly inspected and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. Notices were served in three cases on account of insufficient sanitary accommodation. All the defects were remedied.









